

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the above-identified application:

Listing of Claims

1-14. (Canceled)

15. (Withdrawn and Currently Amended) The ceramic framework of claim 27, wherein the colouring solution composition of claim 14 further ~~comprising~~ comprises a stabilizer.

16. (Withdrawn and Currently Amended) The ceramic framework of claim 27, wherein the colouring solution composition of claim 14, ~~wherein the solution~~ has a viscosity comparable to an aqueous polyethylene glycol solution that is 6% by weight of polyethylene glycol 35,000 (Mn = 14,000 to 19,000) at 23°C.

17. (Withdrawn and Currently Amended) The ceramic framework of claim 27, composition of claim 14, wherein the solvent ~~further~~ comprises water, methyl alcohol, ethyl alcohol, iso-propyl alcohol, n-propyl alcohol, acetone, glycol, or glycerol or mixtures thereof.

18. (Withdrawn and Currently Amended) The ceramic framework of claim 27, composition of claim 14, wherein the anion of the metal salt or metal complex is selected from Cl^- , Br^- , I^- , SO_4^{2-} , SO_3^{2-} , NO_2^- , or NO_3^- .

19. (Withdrawn and Currently Amended) The ceramic framework of claim 27, composition of claim 14, wherein the metal salt or metal complex contains elements selected from La, Pr, Er, Fe, Co, Ni, Cu or Mn.

20. (Withdrawn and Currently Amended) The ceramic framework of claim 27, wherein the colouring solution composition of claim 14, further ~~comprising~~ comprises an additive selected

from the group consisting of stabilizers, complex builders, beating additives buffers, and ~~[[or]]~~ thixotropic substances.

21. (Canceled)

22. (Withdrawn and Currently Amended) The ceramic framework of claim 29, wherein the process of claim 21, further comprising the ~~comprises a~~ comprises a step of drying the treated ceramic framework after it has been treated with the ~~composition~~ colouring solution.

23. (Withdrawn and Currently Amended) The ceramic framework of claim 29, wherein the process comprises treating according to claim 21, wherein the ceramic framework is treated with the ~~composition~~ colouring solution for about 1 to 5 minutes at room temperature.

24. (Withdrawn and Currently Amended) The ceramic framework of claim 29, process according to claim 21, wherein the firing takes place for a ZrO₂ based ceramic at a temperature above 1300°C and lasts for at least 0.5 h and for a Al₂O₃ based ceramic at a temperature above 1350°C and lasts for at least 0.5 h.

25. (Withdrawn and Currently Amended) The ceramic framework of claim 29, process according to claim 21, wherein the firing takes place at a temperature above about 1300 °C.

26. (Withdrawn and Currently Amended) The ceramic framework of claim 29, wherein process according to claim 21, wherein colouring the ceramic framework is treated with the ~~composition~~ colouring solution by dipping the framework into the composition, or by spraying, brushing or ~~[[by]]~~ using a sponge or fabric to apply the composition.

27. (Currently Amended) A dental ceramic framework, treated with a ~~composition~~ colouring solution comprising:

a) a solvent;

b) a metal salt or metal complex, soluble in the solvent, wherein the amount of the metal ions in the composition is in the range of 0.01 to 7.0% by weight; and

c) polyethylene glycol having a Mn in the range of 10,000 to 50,000 in an amount of 1 to 8% by weight of the total composition;

wherein the metal salt is selected from rare earth elements and/or the subgroups of the rare earth elements and/or salts of transition metals of the groups IIIA, IVA, VA, VIA, VIIA, VIIIA, IB, IIB.

28. (Previously Presented) The ceramic framework according to claim 27, wherein the ceramic is presintered and adsorbent.

29. (Currently Amended) A dental ceramic framework, made by the process comprising the steps of:

a) providing a dental ceramic framework;

b) providing ~~the composition~~ a colouring solution comprising:

i) a solvent;

ii) a metal salt or metal complex, soluble in the solvent, wherein the amount of the metal ions in the composition is in the range of 0.01 to 7.0% by weight; and

iii) polyethylene glycol having a Mn in the range of 10,000 to 50,000 in an amount of 1 to 8% by weight of the total composition;

wherein the metal salt is selected from rare earth elements and/or the subgroups of the rare earth elements and/or salts of transition metals of the groups IIIA, IVA, VA, VIA, VIIA, VIIIA, IB, IIB;

c) treating the ceramic framework with the ~~composition~~ colouring solution of step b); and

d) firing the treated ceramic framework.

30. (Previously Presented) A ceramic framework according to claim 27 comprising ZrO_2 or Al_2O_3 .

Serial No.: 10/560,702

Confirmation No.: 1948

Filed: December 13, 2005

For: UNIFORMLY COLOURED CERAMIC FRAMEWORK AND COLOURING SOLUTION

31-32. (Canceled)

33. (Withdrawn and Currently Amended) The ceramic framework of claim 27, ~~method of claim 31~~, wherein the ceramic framework is selected from presintered bodies comprising ZrO_2 and/or Al_2O_3 .

34. (Withdrawn and Currently Amended) The ceramic framework of claim 29, ~~method of claim 32~~, wherein the ceramic framework is selected from presintered bodies comprising ZrO_2 and/or Al_2O_3 .